

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A clamp comprising:

a first clamping jaw;

a support element to which said first clamping jaw is attached;

a clamp body having a first slot through which said support element passes along a first direction ~~to open said clamping jaw~~ and a second slot that faces in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to said first direction, said first direction being a direction the support element moves to allow the first clamping jaw to move away from a second clamping jaw;

a handle grip attached to said clamp body;

a braking lever; and

a brake actuator that contacts said braking lever and comprises an ear that extends through said second slot;

wherein the ear is configured to be actuated by a force applied to the ear aligned in a direction that is the same direction as said first direction.

2. (Currently Amended) The clamp of claim 1, wherein said braking lever is normally positioned so as to engage said support element so as to prevent said support element and said first clamping jaw from moving away from said second clamping jaw and allowing said first clamping jaw to move towards said second clamping jaw;

3. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, wherein pressing of said ear of said brake actuator causes said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

4. (Original) The clamp of claim 3, wherein said braking lever pivots while moving to said position wherein said braking lever does not engage said support element.

5. (Original) The clamp of claim 2, wherein pressing of said ear of said brake actuator causes

said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

6. (Original) The clamp of claim 5, wherein said braking lever pivots while moving to said position wherein said braking lever does not engage said support element.

7. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, wherein said clamp body comprises a third slot and said brake actuator comprises a second ear that extends through said third slot.

8. (Original) The clamp of claim 7, wherein pressing either said ear or said second ear along a pressing direction causes said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

9. (Original) The clamp of claim 8, wherein simultaneously pressing said ear and said second ear along said pressing direction prevents said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

10. (Original) The clamp of claim 8, wherein pressing either said ear or said second ear along a direction opposite said pressing direction prevents said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

11. (Original) The clamp of claim 8, wherein simultaneously pressing said ear and said second ear along a direction opposite said pressing direction causes said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

12. (Original) The clamp of claim 7, wherein said third slot faces in a direction substantially perpendicular to said first direction.

13. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, wherein said brake actuator has a trapezoidal shape.

14. (Original) The clamp of claim 13, wherein said brake actuator comprises a trapezoidal-shaped rib.

15. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, wherein said brake actuator defines an opening into which said support element is inserted.

16. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, wherein said clamp body comprises a recess and said brake actuator comprises an insertion member that is inserted within said recess.

17. (Original) The clamp of claim 16, wherein said clamp body comprises a second recess and said brake actuator comprises a second insertion member that is inserted within said second recess.

18. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, further comprising:

a trigger handle pivotably mounted to said clamp body; and

a driving lever that is movable to a first position where said driving lever engages said support element and causes said support element to move relative to said clamp body,

wherein pivoting of said trigger handle causes said driving lever to move to said first position and causes said support element to move relative to said clamp body.

19. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, wherein said support element comprises a rod.

20. (Original) The clamp of claim 1, wherein said support element comprises a bar.

21. (Withdrawn) A clamp comprising:

a first clamping jaw;

a support element to which said first clamping jaw is attached;

a clamp body having a first slot through which said support element passes along a first direction and an opening that faces in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to said first direction;

a handle grip attached to said clamp body;
a braking lever; and
a brake actuator that contacts said braking lever and comprises an engagement element that extends through said opening.

22. (Withdrawn) The clamp of claim 21, wherein said braking lever is normally positioned so as to engage said support element so as prevent said support element and said first clamping jaw from moving away from said second clamping jaw and allowing said first clamping jaw to move towards said second clamping jaw;

23. (Withdrawn) The clamp of claim 21, wherein pressing of said engagement element of said brake actuator causes said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

24. (Withdrawn) The clamp of claim 23, wherein said braking lever pivots while moving to said position wherein said braking lever does not engage said support element.

25. (Withdrawn) The clamp of claim 22, wherein pressing of said engagement element of said brake actuator causes said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

26. (Withdrawn) The clamp of claim 25, wherein said braking lever pivots while moving to said position wherein said braking lever does not engage said support element.

27. (Withdrawn) The clamp of claim 21, wherein said clamp body comprises a second opening and said brake actuator comprises a second engagement element that extends through said second opening.

28. (Withdrawn) The clamp of claim 27, wherein pressing either said engagement element or said second engagement element along a pressing direction causes said braking lever to move to

a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

29. (Withdrawn) The clamp of claim 27, wherein said second opening slot faces in a direction substantially perpendicular to said first direction.

30. (Withdrawn) The clamp of claim 21, wherein said engagement element comprises a conical-like surface.

31. (Withdrawn) The clamp of claim 30, further comprising a spring that biases said engagement element to a position where said engagement element does not engage said braking lever.

32. (Withdrawn) The clamp of claim 27, wherein said engagement element comprises a first conical-like surface and a first neck; and said second engagement element comprises a second conical-like surface and a second neck that is inserted into said first neck.

33. (Withdrawn) The clamp of claim 32, further comprising a spring that is inserted into said first neck and said second neck.

34. (Withdrawn) The clamp of claim 33, wherein said spring expansively engages both said engagement element and said second engagement element.

35. (Withdrawn) The clamp of claim 21, further comprising:

a trigger handle pivotably mounted to said clamp body; and

a driving lever that is movable to a first position where said driving lever engages said support element and causes said support element to move relative to said clamp body,

wherein pivoting of said trigger handle causes said driving lever to move to said first position and causes said support element to move relative to said clamp body.

36. (Withdrawn) The clamp of claim 21, wherein said support element comprises a rod.

37. (Withdrawn) The clamp of claim 21, wherein said support element comprises a bar.

38. (Withdrawn) A clamp comprising:

a clamping jaw;

a support member to which said clamping jaw is attached;

a clamp body having a channel through which said support member passes along a first direction, a first slot that faces in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to said first direction, and a second slot that faces in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to said first direction;

a handle grip attached to said clamp body;

a braking lever; and

a brake actuator that contacts said braking lever and comprises a first side, a second side, a first ear that extends through said first slot, a second ear that extends through said second slot, a first rib that is associated with said first ear, and a second rib associated with said second ear;

wherein said first ear comprises a front face on the first side of said brake actuator and a rear face on the second side of said brake actuator;

wherein said second ear comprises a front face on the first side of said brake actuator and a rear face on the second side of said brake actuator;

wherein in response to the front face of said first ear being pressed and the front face of said second ear being unpressed, only said second rib actuates said brake lever; and

wherein in response to the rear face of said first ear and the rear face of said second ear being pressed substantially simultaneously, said first and second ribs actuate said brake lever.

39. (Withdrawn) A clamp comprising:

a housing including an upper portion and a lower portion, said upper portion having a channel formed therein through which said support member passes along a first direction and having a slot that faces in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to said first direction;

a support member slidably received in said channel of said housing;

a handle grip attached to said lower portion of said clamp housing;

a braking lever that is releasably engaged with said support member; and
a brake actuator that contacts said braking lever and comprises an ear that extends through said slot;
wherein said brake actuator is allowed to pivot around an axis that is substantially parallel to the brake lever.

40. (Currently Amended) A clamp comprising:

a clamping jaw;
a support member to which said clamping jaw is attached;
a clamp body having a channel through which said support member passes along a first direction ~~that opens said clamping jaw~~ and a slot that faces in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to said first direction, wherein said first direction being a direction the support element moves to allow the first clamping jaw to move away from a second clamping jaw;
a handle grip attached to said clamp body;
a braking lever; and
[[a]] means for tilting said braking lever relative to said support member and comprising an ear that extends through said slot;
wherein said ear is actuated via a force that is applied to said ear aligned in a direction that is the same direction as said first direction.

41. (Previously Presented) A clamp comprising:

a movable and clamping jaw;
a support member connected to said jaw;
a clamp body having an upper portion having a channel through which said support member passes along a first direction and having a slot, a lower portion, and a side extending from said upper portion to said lower portion;
a handle grip attached to said lower portion of said clamp body;
a braking lever; and
a brake actuator that contacts said braking lever and comprises an ear that extends through said slot;

wherein said ear translationally moves from one edge of the slot to an opposite edge of the slot;

wherein said ear is only capable of actuation from said side;

wherein said lower portion is orientated in a second direction that is substantially perpendicular to said first direction; and

wherein said slot faces in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to said second direction and substantially perpendicular to said first direction.